

Today's News - Friday, April 22, 2011

- Happy 41st Anniversary, Earth Day!
- Public Architecture launches "Design for Reuse Knowledge Exchange" - a new web resource devoted to material reuse in design and construction.
- It's also PlaNYC 2030's 5th anniversary: a report on its wins and losses + What's in store for the just announced PlaNYC 2.0: perhaps a bit more modest in scope to deal with current realities, but still something to cheer on.
- Q&A with Mazria re: creating a sustainable vision for the future: "If we [architects] don't do it, nobody will" (you can catch him at AIANY/Cooper Union talk tonight).
- Brussat has a field day with the Scruton/Glancey debate re: the "banality of starchitecture" (full disclosure: he leads with a gracious - and unexpected - shout-out to ANN).
- Welton has an amusing conversation with critic Campbell re: FLW, the future of Boston's built environment, and the state of architecture criticism today: "The era of empty-headed, pompous, illiterate stuff that used to pour out of university schools of architecture has ended, which is nice."
- Gehry describes how he approaches his projects: "Compared with when I was just starting out, I'm faster now. I'm better. I know where the bullshit is. I'm pretty good at editing it out before I let it go too far."
- Weekend diversions:
- In Los Angeles, a reading of the third in Oren Safdie's trilogy of serio-comic-satiric plays about serio-comic-satiric architects.
- The PBS documentary "Olmsted and America's Urban Parks" is "nothing fancy, but the life it chronicles certainly was, a blend of genius, determination and occasional happenstance."
- "Architecture + MIT 150": three days of dialogues, exhibits (and surly some fun) with a star-studded roster.
- "Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment" at Yale illustrates how he "replaces the notion of architect-as-visionary with architect-as-organizer" (a good thing).
- Heathcote hails Adolf Loos exhibition at RIBA, London, declaring "he was the greatest architect of the early modern age" even if little known outside of architectural circles. "This is a worthy reminder of why he should be remembered with gratitude."
- An eyeful of AIA New York 2011 Design Awards winners, now on view at the Center for Architecture.
- In Wanganui , NZ, "Long Live the Modern" offers lots of significant modernist architecture from around New Zealand.
- In Melbourne, the RMIT Gallery offers three architect/artists' takes on space.
- LaBarre is taken by Easton+Combs Chicago installation of a giant sculpture made of 1,500 plastic tiles pieced together that "looks like digital smoke."
- Another thumbs-up for Glaeser's "Triumph of the City": an "entertaining, occasionally annoying, and almost always thought-provoking look at how urban centers are socially, economically, and environmentally good for us."
- Hawthorne queries co-author Lubell about "Julius Shulman Los Angeles" and what makes it different from all the other tomes about the photographer: they mined the archives "that have been barely looked at, let alone published."
- Wade Graham's "American Eden" is a "shrewd, comprehensive and often entertaining guide" that "gives a nod to pastoral urbanism" and efforts "to reclaim empty city lots as small farms. May it bloom and set fruit!"
- Bey is intrigued by a composer creating a musical ode to Chicago's Aqua tower; needless to say, so is Jeanne Gang.

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Everything Earth Day 2011- Google

A Greener Footprint: Nonprofit Launches "Design for Reuse Knowledge Exchange" to Support Reuse in Construction: Reduce, reuse, recycle. This Earth Day, Public Architecture will advance the conversation [with] a new web resource devoted to material reuse in design and construction. [\[links\]](#)- PR Web

Despite Key Setbacks, Bloomberg Plan Has Made New York Greener: Five years after Mayor Bloomberg announced his plan for a sustainable city, is New York a more environmentally friendly city? Courtney Gross reports on PlaNYC's wins and losses.- Gotham Gazette (NYC)

A More Modest Proposal: Bloomberg Environmental Plan Offers Lots of Parts, Little Controversy: ...does not, of course, guarantee it will come to fruition. But environmentalists...expressed almost unanimous praise for the mayor's latest proposal.- Gotham Gazette (NYC)

Can New York City Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Buildings by 2030? Ed Mazria answers some questions in advance of his keynote [at Cooper Union tonight] on the subject of creating a sustainable vision for the future and how NYC architects and designers can rise to the occasion..."If we don't do it, nobody will." By Jacob Slevin -- Architecture 2030- Huffington Post

A scroll through ArchNewsNow.com: Anybody who enjoys the funny things that architecture critics say about the funny buildings they like ought to visit...Talent is not extinct today. It lurks in the low, dishonest standards that litter our cities with a lazy creativity, so full of itself. The banality of starchitecture...is on display daily at [ANN]. By David Brussat -- Roger Scruton; Jonathan Glancey; Benjamin Genocchio; Jonathan Jones; Gehry; Libeskind; Rogers; Foster; Hadid; Koolhaas - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Interview: Critic Robert Campbell re: his views on Frank Lloyd Wright, the state of architecture criticism today and the future of Boston's built environment...what changes have you observed in critical discourse on architecture? "The era of empty-headed, pompous, illiterate stuff that used to pour out of university schools of architecture has ended, which is nice." By J. Michael Welton- Huffington Post

How Genius Works: Frank Gehry: ...he shares his New World Symphony sketches and describes how he approaches his projects...."Compared with when I was just starting out, I'm faster now. I'm better. I know where the bullshit is. I'm pretty good at editing it out before I let it go too far." [\[slide show\]](#)- The Atlantic

"A False Solution" by Oren Safdie: a reading of the third in Safdie's trilogy...a famous German-Jewish architect, after he's won a competition to design a new holocaust museum in Poland, encounters a young summer intern who challenges his resolve, and throws everything he stands for into question; April 25, Los Angeles- The Blank Theatre Company (Los Angeles)

The Genius Who Built Central Park: "Olmsted and America's Urban Parks"...on PBS, helps you appreciate just how visionary Olmsted and his undercredited partner...Calvert Vaux, were at a time when the idea that cities need parks was not firmly established...documentary is nothing fancy, but the life it chronicles certainly was, a blend of genius, determination and occasional happenstance.- New York Times

Architecture + MIT 150 - April 25-27: Magazines and Their Role in Architecture and Artistic Research Practice; Pedagogical Practices; Research as Practice; MIT in the 70s and 80s; The Global Architect in the Free Trade Age; etc.; free, open to the public -- Nader Tehrani; Beatriz Colomina; Ute Meta Bauer; Ana Miljacki; Jorge Otero-Pailos; Preston Scott Cohen; Sheila Kennedy; Meejin Yoon; Stanford Anderson; Peter Eisenman; Kenneth Frampton; etc.- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

All Around Guy: "Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment" at the Yale School of Architecture...[he] replaces the notion of architect-as-visionary with architect-as-organizer...the power of architecture to harness the many human and environmental forces that shape the built environment...this acknowledgement often feels like a rather visionary idea in itself. By Shannon

"Learning to Dwell: Adolf Loos in the Czech Lands" at RIBA, London: ...he was the greatest architect of the early modern age. Yet beyond the rarefied world of architecture he is little known, precisely because he resolutely refused to show off...This is a worthy reminder of why he should be remembered with gratitude. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

AIA New York Honors 38 Winners of 2011 Design Awards: A skyscraper in China, a wastewater treatment plant in New York, and an art museum in North Carolina are among the 38 winners...An exhibition featuring all of the winning projects will be on view through June 25 at the NYC Center for Architecture... [slide shows]- Architectural Record

Architecture display in city: The Sarjeant Gallery... exhibition "Long Live the Modern" ...brings together original drawings and period books, journals and photographs, as well as new architectural models and recent photographs of significant modernist architecture from around New Zealand...Focusing on the post-World War II period...- Wanganui Chronicle (New Zealand)

Architectural space exhibitions at RMIT Gallery: Spatial listening (Chelle Macnaughtan), Intangible architecture (Ainslie Murray) and Aesthetics of air (Malte Wagenfeld) -- Juhani Pallasmaa [images]- Selector.com (Australia)

Giant Sculpture Made Of 1,500 Plastic Tiles Looks Like Digital Smoke: "Changing Room," by Easton+Combs, is made of more than 1,500 polycarbonate tiles slotted together to create what's effectively a huge swatch of herringbone...at the Extension Gallery for Architecture in Chicago. By Suzanne LaBarre [images, video]- Fast Company

"Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier" by Edward Glaeser: ...an entertaining, occasionally annoying, and almost always thought-provoking look at how urban centers are socially, economically, and environmentally good for us.- OnEarth magazine (Natural Resources Defense Council/NRDC)

"Julius Shulman Los Angeles: The Birth of a Modern Metropoli" by Sam Lubell and Douglas Woods has some new angles: There are many books of the architectural photographer's work; a co-author of the newest one explains what it adds..."At heart he was a storyteller more than anything." By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Wade Graham's "American Eden: From Monticello to Central Park to Our Backyards: What Our Gardens Tell Us About Who We Are" is a shrewd, comprehensive and often entertaining guide...gives a nod to pastoral urbanism, that effort...to reclaim empty city lots as small farms. May it bloom and set fruit!- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Composer creates musical piece inspired by Aqua Tower: ...a string quartet musical piece written by...Harold Meltzer who will oversee the composition's Chicago premiere April 27...got the idea after seeing photographs...takes its cues from the building's design and the "amazing way the line of the building is mediated by all those undulations." By Lee Bey -- Jeanne Gang/Studio/Gang; Carlos Scarpa [images, link]- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

UNStudio: Galleria Centercity, Cheonan, South Korea

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